

{As Prepared for Delivery}

**New Hampshire Press Conference
October 25, 2005**

**Thomas C. Dorr
Under Secretary for Rural Development**

Thank you, Jolinda, and good afternoon. It's great to be here, and I'll be happy to take your questions in just a moment. Before I do, however, I'd like to recognize three of our partners:

- Henry Ahern and Richard Frost, from the Northeast Deer and Elk Farmers Association;**
- Stu Arnett, from the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development; and**
- Paul Bradley, with the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund.**

These gentlemen are the real stars of this show. I am called upon very regularly -- it goes with the job -- to attend conferences and meetings all

around the country. In fact, I'm in New Hampshire today primarily to attend the Farm Bill Forum in Manchester this morning.

As a part of these trips, more often than not, we arrange meetings like this to highlight some of the projects which Rural Development has helped finance.

We do this because success is contagious, enthusiasm is contagious, initiative is contagious.

That's true here today. Every one of these successful projects sets an example. Every one of them makes it easier for the next innovator or entrepreneur to get started. Success breeds success.

The point I make over and over -- and I'll make it again today -- is that the critical variable -- the magic ingredient -- is leadership.

USDA Rural Development can help with funding and technical support.

Jolinda, for those of you who may not know her, is one of our secret weapons -- she and her staff have done just an outstanding job

leveraging investment for New Hampshire, over \$82 million in 2005 alone, and over \$318 million since President Bush took office.

But not a penny of that would have been invested without the vision, energy, and leadership of partners like Henry Ahern, Richard Frost, Stu Arnett, Paul Bradley, and their associates. That's where the drive comes from. Nothing happens without it.

These are three very different projects, and they illustrate the incredible diversity of opportunity in rural America today:

- **Harvesting velvet antler for use as a nutritional supplement;**
- **Broadband applications for micro-businesses;**
- **Technical assistance to develop cooperative housing parks.**

In fact, it would be difficult to think of three more radically different business ventures. But the common denominator is leadership.

It is a privilege for me, on behalf of President Bush, Secretary Johanns, and a great team at USDA Rural Development, to be here today to

support this spirit of initiative. Gentlemen, we look forward to working with you. Thank you.